

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 2 **Fall Announcement # 2, District 1 Commercial Period 1** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Yukon Area began Fall Season management in the lower river districts on July 16. Based on a 2013 summer chum salmon run of approximately 2.6 million fish, the projected fall chum salmon run size is greater than 800,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest. Both summer and fall chum salmon are currently entering the river. Commercial fishing in the lower river at this transition time would likely harvest a mixture of both stocks.

District Y-1

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in the **Coastal Set Net Only Area** of District Y-1 on Thursday, July 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. This will be a 12-hour commercial fishing period for the **Coastal Set Net Only Area** with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

The remainder of District Y-1 will be open to commercial fishing on Thursday, July 18 from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. This will be a 9-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

For the entire District Y-1, no Chinook salmon can be sold during this commercial opening. Fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. **Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.**

The department is reminding fishermen who are intending to fish in the **Set Net Only Area** of District Y-1 that they are required to register prior to commercial fishing during the fall season in District Y-1. Registration can be completed by contacting the Emmonak Fish and Game office or registration forms are also posted in local District Y-1 community Post Offices. After the first commercial period of the fall season, regulations require a 72-hour waiting period to transfer into

and out of the **Set Net Only Area**. The waiting period begins once you have notified the department of your intentions to transfer. For those individuals who are intending to fish in the remainder of District Y-1, no special registration is required and those fishermen will be registered to the district where their first delivery is made.

The District Y-1 and the Set Net Only Area boundaries were redefined by the Board of Fisheries during the 2013 AYK meeting (see map included). Acharon Channel and the coastal waters adjacent to the south mouth of the Yukon River from Chris Point to Black River are now included in the District Y-1 Set Net Only Area.

In Districts Y-1 and Y-2, subsistence salmon fishing is now open during the fall season for 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches. In District Y-1 subsistence salmon fishing will close at 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, and reopen at 9:00 a.m. Friday, July 19.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 and 459-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks 1-866-479-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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YUKON RIVER
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